To: Dean Van Galen, Chancellor  
116 North Hall  
University of Wisconsin-River Falls  

From: Wes Chapin, Chair  
Faculty Senate  
University of Wisconsin-River Falls  

June 15, 2011  

RE: UWRF Faculty Senate Motion 2011-2012/02  

At the June 14, 2011 meeting of University of Wisconsin-River Falls Faculty Senate, motion 2011-2012/02 was passed and it is effective immediately. This motion is forwarded to you for your action.  

Motion from the Academic Program and Policies Committee (Jim Zimmerman, Chair) to accept the proposed suspension of the Ethnic Studies minor  

Approved  

Disapproved  

Dean Van Galen, Chancellor  

Date
TRANSMITTAL for UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS: Changes or Proposals

INFORMATION

1. Program title: Ethnic Studies Minor
2. Department(s): Ethn
3. College(s): Cas
4. Proposal prepared by: Jennifer Willis-Rivera Date: 3/23/2011

5. Check all that apply:
   - [ ] New program
   - [X] Existing program
   - [ ] Change in course name
   - [ ] Change in number of credits
   - [X] Change in Major
   - [X] Change in Minor
   - [ ] Change in course content
   - [X] Change in Emphasis/Option

6. Other Programs/Departments Consulted (Requires letters of support from all Departments or Programs substantially affected):
   1. 
   2. 
   3. 
   4. 

7. Date of Implementation: Fall Semester 2011 Year

8. Have all courses in this program been approved? Yes [X] No [ ]
   If “No,” which ones?

9. Attach Request Narrative. (Include description of program before and after proposed changes).

UNIT APPROVALS: Requires signatures of all Departments Chairs and Deans whose programs will be affected by the changes or proposal. Signature lines for the affected Departments and Colleges (Noted in 6 above), are on the back of this form. These signatures should be obtained prior to review by all other shared governance levels.

Department Chair [Signature] Date 3/23/11

College Curriculum Cmtt. Chair [Signature] Date 4/11/11

Dean of College [Signature] Date 4/11/11

University Curriculum Cmtt. Chair [Signature] Date 4/13/11

Academic Policy & Programs Cmtt. Chair [Signature] Date 4/25/11

Faculty Senate Chair [Signature] Date 4/26/11

Provost / Vice Chancellor [Signature] Date 4/12/11

Chancellor [Signature] Date 4/12/11

NOTE: The master copy of this transmittal and accompanying documents must be filed in the Provost’s office upon final approval. The Provost’s office will notify all appropriate administrative offices [Registrar, Dean(s), and Department Chair(s)] of approvals and necessary actions to implement changes.

Rev. 11/08
It is with sadness that we announce that the Ethnic Studies Committee has voted to eliminate the Ethnic Studies minor. After careful consideration by committee members, and investigation into other ways we might be able to fund the program, it has become clear that the responsible thing to do is to eliminate the program. Given that there are very few students in the program (with most of those graduating by December) and given that there are significant needs for restructuring the program along with continuously dwindling faculty resources, we feel that this is our best course of action.

Please understand that this will not have an impact on any of the American Cultural Diversity courses that are currently being taught (with the exception of ETHN 200). These courses will continue to be offered, at the discretion of the departments, and currently have very strong enrollments. We also encourage Interdisciplinary minors where appropriate for students who are interested in examining ethnicity and race within the U.S.

Jennifer Willis-Rivera will continue to teach the ETHN 200 course during the summer and/or J-Term for those students who may require it to graduate. She will also continue to be the contact person for students currently in the program until they graduate (for exception forms, advising, etc.). The committee will ask that library funds be set aside each year specifically earmarked toward supplementing the library's resources in the area of U.S. race and ethnicity. We will also be strongly advocating for faculty development opportunities for faculty to incorporate material on race and ethnicity into their existing courses.

It is our hope that in a re-examination of the interdisciplinary minor model, and perhaps in better budget times, the program may re-emerge at some point. Until then, we ask supporters of the program to continue working on the objectives that the Ethnic Studies program is based on - especially supporting any extracurricular endeavors that support diversity on our campus.

Sincerely,

The Ethnic Studies Committee
Jennifer Willis-Rivera (chair)
Cyndi Kernahan
David Milne
Davida Alperin